

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - A U G U S T 2 0 1 0

A Week with Thunder Bay Volunteers

On July 14, eleven staff and volunteers from Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary arrived in Port Angeles to spend a week with staff and volunteers from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. After a ferry ride across Puget Sound and a welcome dinner, our guests retired to the homes of their host families.

On our first full day guests were introduced to the diversity of habitats and animals on the Olympic Peninsula with a morning spent exploring tidepools at Salt Creek County Park and an afternoon at Hurricane Ridge. This day ended with dinner at Toga's followed by a presentation by Carol Bernthal on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary hosted by Feiro Marine Life Center. At the conclusion of the evening ONMS director Dan Basta recognized Jim Fedderly, our Volunteer of the Year nominee, for his outstanding service in 2009.



Friday morning it was off to the Elwha River Valley to meet with Olympic National Park ranger Deni Rauw to learn about the removal of two dams on this wild and scenic river and plans to restore the river valley to its pre-1900 condition, including restoration of traditional salmon runs to the headwaters of the Elwha Valley. After lunch at Lake Crescent Lodge we continued on to Sol Duc Falls with a walk through the old-growth forest.

We left Port Angeles early Saturday morning, headed out to La Push to explore Second Beach. The scenic beauty of this historic area was enhanced by viewing a family of river otters frolicking in the tidepools while bald eagles soared overhead. After lunch at Kalaloch Lodge we traveled inland to the Hoh Rainforest – a temperate rainforest which receives approximately 12 to 14 feet of rain annually. Our Thunder Bay guests were amazed by the 300-foot-tall spruce trees and groves of maple trees draped in moss.

Then it was on to Neah Bay on the Makah Indian Reservation where we planned to spend a day



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exploring the northern part of the sanctuary before volunteering at the Tribal Journey canoe landing on Monday. To minimize driving time we spent two nights on the Coast Guard in trailers maintained by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and National Marine Fisheries Service. Sunday morning, after a tour of the base, we checked in with the Makah volunteer coordinator, and then began touring the Makah Cultural and Research Center.



Our itinerary changed unexpectedly when we were approached by the volunteer coordinator and asked if we could begin our volunteer service immediately rather than waiting until the next day, as planned. In the spirit of “we are here to help as needed” we cut short our museum tour and reported to the Emergency Operations Center for our assignment, which was directing traffic, especially trucks towing 40’ canoes, to designated camping areas at Hobuck Beach on the west side of town. Imagine the courage it took for our Thunder Bay guests, in Neah Bay for less than one day, to stop traffic and direct other visitors to camping areas they had never seen in a town completely unfamiliar to them! Many funny moments were shared when we all returned to our accommodations for our evening meal.

Later that evening we attended the volunteer orientation session and were quite surprised to learn that our primary assignment for the Tribal Journey was to drive golf carts on a circuit through the town, assisting people, especially tribal elders, with getting from one activity to another.

Bright and early on a cool, cloudy morning we reported for duty. Soon people of all ages were hailing us and requesting rides to the general store, high school, canoe landing site, or other destinations around town. Giving them a lift was a great way to meet people, learn a little about their background, and feel that we were helping out.

After our first four-hour shift volunteers had a break and the option to hike to Cape Flattery or stay in town to watch the canoe landing before reporting back for another volunteer shift. In the evening we left Neah Bay and returned to host families in Port Angeles for the night.



Tuesday was a free day for our guests to go kayaking, hiking, or exploring the local area. In the evening we met for a final group dinner and a presentation about the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Although we haven’t received a formal invitation

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from Jeff Gray, we are looking forward to visiting in August or September of 2011.



The next morning we left Port Angeles and returned to Seattle for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Seattle Aquarium hosted by two of their long-time volunteer docents. In addition to touring the kitchen facilities and talking to volunteer divers, we also had a chance to learn how this very successful partner organization trains and nurtures over 500 volunteers, some with more than 1000 hours of service.

We had a last lunch together at Ivar's Restaurant overlooking the Seattle waterfront. Then it was time to say goodbye as some of our guests were headed to the airport while others remained in the city for a day or two of sightseeing. We felt as if we were old friends, united by a common background and mission, and looking forward to spending time together again next summer both in Washington and Michigan.

*Thanks to all the host families
for their support of this event!*

Climate Change and Rising Sea Levels

*Reported by Lisbeth Jardine**

July 7, 2010, the Feiro Marine Life Center sponsored Dr. Robert S. Young, Director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, in a lecture, "Sea Level Rise: Run for Your Lives" to an audience of approximately 75 people. Dr. Young has been doing research on the North Olympic Peninsula since 2004 on Olympic coast erosion, Elwha Dam removal and youth education.

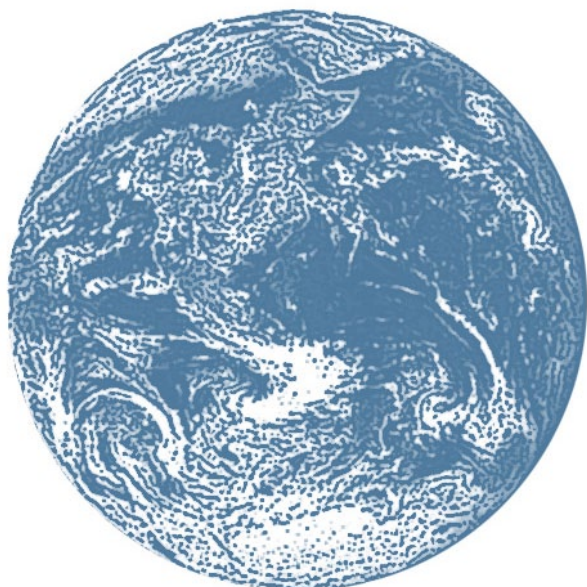
Prof. Young's lecture, based on decades of coastal erosion research, corresponded to his recently published book, *The Rising Sea* which he co-authored with Orrin H. Pilkey.

Dr. Young had many approaches to climate change and rising sea levels. Here are a few highlights:

- Sea levels are rising.
- Tax dollars need to be spent wisely.
- It will be necessary to decide which developed areas should be protected.
- Apocalyptic global change books predicting social collapse do more harm than good.
- 98% of mountain glaciers globally are shrinking and are a source of fresh water for a significant portion of earth's population.
- Tide gauge observations show steady rising sea level increase through last century; hence, volume of water in ocean is increasing.
- Satellite altimetry data shows a global mean elevation rise of one meter by next 35 years.
- The Pacific Northwest, with its rocky shoreline and rising plate tectonics will experience uplift in 10 seconds along the outer coast.

- Over long term, sea levels are rising, but prediction is problematic and modeling is uncertain.
- The world's delta regions are most vulnerable to sea level rise, and there are where the world's poorest people live.
- Impacts of sea level rise include failure of septic systems, storm water run off times lengthened, failure of coastal agriculture, impacts to port facilities world wide.
- Major metropolitan areas will suck up all the dollars.
- Recommendations for immediate implementation:
 - enforce setback regulations
 - reform Stafford Act
 - implement a program of retreat from coast communities

*Full text of Lisbeth's summary is available in the OCDC.



Port Angeles Seeking Input for Harbor Development and Budget Priorities



The City of Port Angeles has begun the process of updating both its Shoreline Master Program and Harbor Resource Management Plan. These two documents will guide and direct the future of the harbor and shoreline in Port Angeles for the next several years, and could potentially have a big impact on the future of the Olympic Coast Discovery Center and Feiro Marine Life Center. Public input is very important to create plans that will serve varied interests along the shoreline and in the harbor. This survey will provide a way for citizens to inform the City about their preferences for the harbor and shoreline area. Please take a few minutes to give your input between now and August 6 at <http://www.cityofpa.us/>. You can also show your support for the Feiro Marine Life Center as you complete the budget priorities survey.